

Angela has been active in the Yonkers Aquahung Women's Democratic Club as well as doing extensive charity work. Virgilio was born in Malito in southern Italy in 1923 and came to America in 1937. He is president of a construction firm and has involved himself extensively in the community. He is a founding member of the Italian City Club. His name is on "The Wall" at Ellis Island.

They and their three children, Sam, Yvonne, and Margaret Angeletti, and five grandchildren, are celebrating this grand occasion. I join all who believe in love in congratulating them for fifty years together.

IN SUPPORT OF A "DAY TO MAKE  
OUR VOICES HEARD"

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 23, 1998*

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for the working men and women in unions around the country who will showcase their ambitions, visions, successes and heartaches in what is being called a "Day to Make our Voices Heard."

We should be proud of their efforts to create unions to give a voice to their aspirations. These men and women embody the democratic ideal. They have joined together to help create better working conditions for themselves and for all Americans.

Unfortunately, the limited rights that workers currently enjoy do not protect them from unfair and uncivil treatment by some employees. And even these limited rights are under attack by the Republican majority.

Let me give you an example from my district of the unfair actions that some employers will take against employees that have joined together to form a union.

One hundred and one workers at Pacific Rail Services, an intermodal yard in Richmond, California, overwhelming voted to join the International Longshore and Warehouse Union last September. The Union negotiated an agreement with Pacific Rail Services, which included wage and benefit increases. But just before it was officially signed, Burlington Northern/Sante Fe pulled the contract from Pacific Rail Services and gave it to another company. All 101 of the newly organized workers at Pacific Rail Services were thrown out on March 15 and a new, non-union workforce brought in.

Despite outrageous acts such as this one, the Republican majority is determined to weaken even further the right of employees to organize and advocate on their own behalf. The majority has already passed a bill through the House to give employers the power to hire and fire workers based solely on their support for union representation.

This so called "Fairness for Small Business and Employees Act of 1998" would undermine one of the most basic rights, the right to freedom of association. The bill permits employees to discriminate against workers on the basis of the workers' union support. It would permit, even encourage, employers to interrogate applicants on their preference for union representation and to refuse to hire an applicant on this basis.

Attacks like these make "A Day to Make Our Voices Heard" even more important. They

remind us that we should be strengthening, not weakening, the rights of employees to ensure they receive fair and timely resolution of their concerns. I join my colleagues in applauding the efforts of workers all across the country to publicize the strong contributions unions make to a productive and civil workplace and highlight unfair business practices, and to bolster the efforts to those of us in Congress to protect workers' rights.

THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 23, 1998*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, only a short time ago at the turn of this century workers faced sweatshops, low wages, no benefits, and unsafe work places—conditions highlighted in books from the period like Upton Sinclair's, *The Jungle*. These books weren't simply fiction because they described the very real conditions that existed at the time. It's not a period to which I want to return.

Unions played an enormous role in improving these deplorable conditions of the past. But today unions are fighting for their very existence. In our country, as unions have declined, the gap between rich and poor has widened. By attacking unions, the Republicans have been working overtime to return to a past where unions didn't exist but the conditions unions sought to improve did.

Since coming to Congress I've seen labor unions come under attack from all sides: Efforts to repeal Davis-Bacon, pushing down the prevailing wage; decimating OSHA, putting workers' safety at risk; and stalling efforts to raise the minimum wage. That's the climate in Washington.

In spite of these attacks, America's workers still seek to form and join unions. Why? Unions promote the rights of workers, they endorse affirmative action, and they work to close unjustified wage gaps for women and minorities. That's what unions do for American workers.

Mr. Speaker, today's climate is not hospitable to working Americans who wish to organize. There have been documented examples of companies carrying on campaigns to keep their workers from organizing. They've used illegal threats, refusals to promote, illegal warnings, illegal work rules, illegal interrogations, and even illegal surveillance to force workers not to organize.

We can't turn a blind eye to these disturbing practices that workers seeking to organize face everyday. Unfortunately, back-handed tactics and intimidation go a long way to discourage working men and women from organizing. And that's what opponents of unions bank on. These are some of the harshest attacks possible on working Americans and their rights. They're attacks on entities which provide working men and women with the opportunity to improve their lives, their living standards, communities, and companies.

The fact is that not only do union workers earn an average of 33 percent more than non-union workers, but they also are much more likely to have stronger health and pension benefits. We need to let workers know that unions and their members will be there to

strongly support the efforts of those who seek to organize. Labor unions help all working Americans—organized or not. That's why tomorrow's "Day to Make Our Voices Heard" events are so important.

Working men and women built this country, and the labor movement's struggle is their struggle. That struggle never ends and must never be taken for granted. The long uphill climb from the turn of this century could be rolled back by an avalanche of Republican anti-worker ploys. Let's bring back freedom of assembly and freedom of speech to the workplace. Let's respect working Americans' free choice when they seek to organize.

IN MEMORY OF REV. ROBERT  
JOSEPH STEVENS

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 23, 1998*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness and regret that I must rise today to inform the House that the Rev. Robert J. Stevens recently passed away.

Mr. Speaker, Rev. Stevens was a good friend. And, though he has passed, I want to take this opportunity to stand before you today in order to recognize his remarkable career.

As some of you may know, Rev. Stevens spent most of his career serving as one of South Florida's finest morticians. With sensitivity and compassion, Rev. Stevens worked to comfort mourners during what is always a very difficult time in a person's life.

Rev. Stevens graduated from Palm Beach County's Roosevelt Senior High School in 1958. Furthermore, he completed advanced studies at McAllister College of Embalming in New York and North Carolina A & T University. He returned to South Florida to enter into the Stevens Bros. Funeral Home family business in 1973, where he worked until his death several weeks ago.

Rev. Stevens always believed that his greatest achievement was being called into the Ministry to preach the word of God. He was the founder and pastor of New Christ Missionary Baptist Church in West Palm Beach.

In addition to Rev. Stevens' work in his church and funeral home business, he was an active leader of the Florida State Morticians Association, the National Funeral Directors and Morticians Association, and the Masons. His extraordinary work on behalf of these organizations will continue to preserve his memory, well into the future.

The passing of Rev. Stevens is a difficult one for me personally. However, Mr. Speaker, I know that he will be missed even more by the people of South Florida. He was there for them as a pastor and as a friend. He will surely be missed.

A TRIBUTE TO MAYOR ELIHU  
HARRIS

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 23, 1998*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, Mayor Elihu Harris of Oakland has served the public for twenty-